



Security Council

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**Letter dated 22 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to attach herewith the memorandum of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on "The Korean peninsula and nuclear weapons", released on 21 April 2010 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sin Son Ho**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Korean peninsula and nuclear weapons

Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, 21 April 2010

Mankind's strong desire for a nuclear-free world, first manifested in the twentieth century, remains unfulfilled as we stand in the twenty-first century.

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula forms a link in the chain of efforts to denuclearize the world. The six-party talks, aimed at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, lasted for several years but failed to produce any noteworthy results; it now faces a serious deadlock. The blame for the current deadlock lies with those parties who, from a sinister motive, distort the essence of the matter; the deep-rooted mistrust between the parties further compounded the problem. Hence, it is of vital importance to gain a deep insight into the history and root cause of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula if a solution to the denuclearization of the peninsula is to be found with correct understanding of the essence of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

1. World's biggest victim of nuclear weapons

No nation in the world has been exposed to the nuclear threat so directly and for so long time as the Korean nation. As far as the Korean nation is concerned, the threat posed by nuclear weapons is, by no means, an abstract notion, but a practical problem as well as concrete experience.

Koreans suffered directly from the United States nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the death toll of Koreans resulting from the above-mentioned attacks is the second largest in the world, behind only that of Japanese.

Since Koreans had already had the first-hand experience of the calamities caused by atom bombs, the nuclear blackmail by the United States in the days of the Korean War was perceived as a recurring nightmare. On 30 November 1950, then United States President Truman publicly mentioned about the use of atom bombs in the Korean War. On the next day, an order was issued to the United States Strategic Air Command, requesting it to put bombers on standby for an immediate atom bomb attack in the Far East. In December 1950, McArthur, the then-Commander of the United States Forces in the Far East, made a saber-rattling remark, saying that a radioactive corridor would be set up in the northern part of Korea covering the area between the east coast and the west coast. No living thing would be found in that area for 60 or 120 years.

This nuclear blackmail resulted in the mass exodus of "atom bomb-driven refugees" from the north to the south of the Korean peninsula. Many families who found it impossible to move to the south had, at least, their husbands or sons take refuge in the south for the purpose of preserving the family line. This was how

millions of "separated families" came into being; they now live scattered in the north and south of the Korean peninsula.

It was none other than the United States that first brought nuclear weapons into the Korean peninsula. In the latter half of the 1950s, the rise of the anti-nuclear movement in Japan jeopardized the fate of the pro-United States Government. The United States, in an attempt to buttress the then-Government of Japan, transferred its nuclear weapons from Japan to South Korea. In 1957, the first batch of tactical nuclear weapons the United States had deployed in Japan was brought into South Korea. It means that the United States "denuclearized" Japan at the sacrifice of the Korean peninsula. Since then the number of nuclear weapons the United States deployed in South Korea steadily increased. In the middle of the 1970s, more than 1,000 pieces of United States nuclear weapons found their way into South Korea.

In the late 1960s, the United States began to stage joint military exercises with South Korea for the purpose of training its forces in the use of these nuclear weapons in an actual war of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In 1969, the first United States-South Korea joint military exercise for a nuclear war, labelled "Operation Focus Retina", was staged. Ever since, the joint military exercises for nuclear war have been conducted on an annual basis for more than 40 years and up to this date, changing the label from time to time: "Freedom Vault", "Team Spirit", "RSOI", "Key Resolve", "Foal Eagle", "Ulji Freedom Guardian", etc.

As a result, even the post-war generation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had to live under the threat of United States nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea for action that targeted them; they had to spend their lifetime exposed to the danger of a nuclear war. This is the grim reality of the Korean peninsula, stemming from the nuclear threat.

2. The efforts of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aimed at removing the nuclear threat posed by the United States

The efforts of the Government of the DPRK aimed at removing the nuclear threat posed by the United States went through three distinct phases.

In the first phase of its efforts, the Government of the DPRK endeavoured to eliminate the United States nuclear threat by establishing a nuclear-free-zone through peaceful dialogue and negotiations.

In 1959, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed that an atomic weapon-free peace zone be set up in Asia. In 1981, it put forward the proposal of establishing a nuclear-free-zone in North-East Asia. In 1986, it proposed that the Korean peninsula be denuclearized and made active efforts to this end.

On 10 January 1984, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea offered to include South Korean authorities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States talks aimed at removing the danger of nuclear war. On 23 June 1986, it released a Government statement and solemnly declared that it would not test, produce, store or bring in nuclear weapons, that it would not tolerate installation of any foreign military bases including bases for nuclear weapons and that it would not allow the passage of foreign nuclear weapons through its territory, territorial air and waters.

However, the United States turned a blind eye to our efforts to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and posed an increasing nuclear threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In the second phase of its efforts, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strengthened its endeavour to eliminate the nuclear threat posed by the United States by relying on international law.

In 1978, the United States, the then-Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, depositors of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, announced a statement on "negative security assurance" — albeit *de bene esse* — stating that they would not use nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear States that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in December 1985, with the expectation that this would help to remove the nuclear threat posed by the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

When the United States promised to suspend the "Team Spirit" series of joint military exercises for nuclear war, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, pursuant to relevant provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, actively cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in six ad hoc inspections during the period from May 1992 to February 1993.

However, the United States began to voice the so-called "suspicion on nuclear development" even before the completion of these ad hoc inspections and rigged up the "resolution on special inspection" that targeted not only nuclear facilities but also our military installations of a sensitive nature by instigating foul forces within IAEA. The vile nature of forceful inspection of this kind was clearly revealed later in Iraq. The United States didn't hesitate to search even the presidential palace of Iraq under the pretext of "inspection" and later fabricated "information" about the existence of weapons of mass destruction only to use it as an excuse for war against Iraq. It was proved at some later point that the so-called "information" about the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was completely false. However, it was too late: Iraq, as a nation, had already been ruined and soaked in bloodbath.

In an attempt to force "special inspection" on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States openly threatened the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with nuclear weapons by resuming the "Team Spirit" series of joint military exercises it had temporarily suspended. In the long run, even international law failed to stop the arbitrary acts of the United States. To make matters worse, it was clear that international law had been abused as a tool to justify the high-handedness of the United States.

On 12 March 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declared that it would, pursuant to article 10 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty in order to safeguard national sovereignty and security and duly notified its decision to the depositors of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took unilateral measures to temporarily suspend the entry into force of our decision to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the United States consented to hold the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States talks.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States agreed framework was signed on 21 October 1994 — i.e., in the days of the Clinton administration.

However, the Bush administration that later came to power unilaterally scrapped the agreed framework. The Bush administration even accused the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of forming "an axis of evil" in the State of the Union Address dated 30 January 2002. That the country with the world's largest nuclear arsenal showed enmity of such strength to another country means that this country faces the most serious nuclear threat. In March of the same year, the United States published the "Nuclear Posture Review" that included the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the list of "targets for nuclear pre-emptive strike". It endangered the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the extreme; calamities of a nuclear war loomed large for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was clear, at this point, that all our efforts, be it through dialogue or reliance on the international law, failed. The unique conditions of the Korean peninsula called for a unique solution. The only choice left for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was to "counter the threat of nuclear weapons with nuclear weapons". In short, the extreme nuclear threat posed by the United States relentlessly forced the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to go nuclear.

On 10 January 2003, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took a resolute measure for self-defence by lifting the 10-year moratorium on its decision to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and thus finally pulled out of the Treaty. No longer bound by the Treaty, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea changed its policy direction, on an utterly legitimate basis, by weaponizing the entire portion of plutonium extracted from the pilot nuclear power station that had been generating electricity. In October 2006, three years after its withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted the first nuclear test, which was followed by the second test in May 2009.

Therefore, an end was put to the nuclear imbalance in North-East Asia, where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been the only "blank" with neither nuclear weapons nor the protection of a nuclear umbrella. Thanks to the effect of deterrence resulting from the possession by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of nuclear weapons, the risk of war on the Korean peninsula was considerably reduced. These are our current efforts — i.e., the efforts to remove the nuclear threat by countering United States nuclear weapons with out nuclear weapons instead of a mere verbal appeal.

3. The nuclear policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as regards the denuclearization of and the building of a lasting peace regime on the Korean peninsula remains unchanged.

The denuclearization, as was stipulated in the 19 September joint statement adopted as a result of the six-party talks in 2005, refers to the process of making the entire Korean peninsula a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the basis of complete and verifiable removal of actual nuclear threat posed by external elements. The denuclearization requires the building of confidence. The earlier the peace treaty is concluded as regards the Korean peninsula remaining in a state of ceasefire, the sooner the confidence needed for the denuclearization will be built.

The mission of the nuclear forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is to deter and repulse any aggression or attack against the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea until the Korean peninsula and the world are denuclearized. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea maintains the consistent position of neither threatening nor using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States as long as they do not collude with other nuclear States in launching attacks or committing aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We are willing to join the international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and safely manage nuclear materials on an equal footing with other nuclear States.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will manufacture as many nuclear weapons as it deems necessary. However, it will neither compete in a nuclear arms race nor produce nuclear weapons beyond its need. It will join the international nuclear disarmament efforts on an equal footing with other nuclear States.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as in the past, will continue to make consistent efforts to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and the world, regardless of whether the six-party talks are resumed or not.